

The Brooklyn Paper

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RED MEANS GO!

Riders: State should green-light cyclists running lights

By Allegra Hobbs
The Brooklyn Paper

Give them a break — no brakes.

A Williamsburg pol’s proposal to allow cyclists to ride through red lights and stop signs so long as the coast is clear would bring the city’s laws into sync with the way many pedal-pushers say they already roll.

“I make my living by running red lights,” said bike messenger Jeffrey Jones.

Councilman Antonio Reynoso (D–Williamsburg) last Tuesday pitched a plan to legalize cyclists treating red lights as stop signs, and



stop signs as yield signs.

Reynoso himself admits to cruising through stop signs and red lights on occasion, and thinks it speeds up travel times for everyone, according to a New York Post report.

But cyclists currently have to follow the same rules as drivers and pay the same fines when they’re caught blowing the signals, which cyclists say is totally disproportionate —

a 25-pound bike does not pose the same danger as a two-ton death machine, said one bike booster.

“Considering the amount of money for the fine, it’s ludicrous,” said Greenpointer Darren Lipman, who gets around town by both bike and car, and claims police once slapped him with a \$190 ticket for riding through “an extremely safe” intersection.

But bikes can still maim pedestrians — cyclists in Brooklyn hit and injured 86 walking commuters last year in crashes that didn’t involve cars, according to city data.

Reynoso’s bill claims changing

the law wouldn’t make things any more dangerous, however, as cyclists would still have to slow their roll before cruising a crossing.

“Bicyclists would still have to slow down in order to insure that the intersection is clear of pedestrians, vehicles, and other bicyclists,” it reads.

The Council can’t change the traffic laws, but Reynoso’s proposal would have the city call upon the state to make the changes.

His pitch is based on a similar law that has been in place in the pastoral state of Idaho since 1982, giving the action the nickname the “Idaho Stop.”



Cyclists will be able to cruise through red lights and stop signs if a proposal by Councilman Antonio Reynoso becomes law.

Idahoans weigh in on the ‘Idaho stop’

By Allegra Hobbs
The Brooklyn Paper

Councilman Antonio Reynoso (D–Williamsburg) wants New York to legalize the “Idaho Stop” — allowing cyclists to treat red lights like stop signs, and stop signs like yield signs.

New Yorkers have plenty of opinions on the topic, but it has already been the law of the land in its namesake state since the early ’80s — so how is that working out for Idahoans? We called them to find out!

In the state’s capital city of Boise — which has roughly half

the population of bucolic Staten Island — one cycling newsman says the rule has served him well.

“The ‘Idaho stop’ has really allowed me to get around pretty well,” said Harrison Berry, a reporter for alternative newsweekly the Boise Weekly. “I’m very happy with it, and I can’t imagine a more intuitive system.”

The Idaho stop is not just for Idaho, said Berry — the law is a common-sense measure that can seriously improve the flow of traffic on urban streets, and is safe as long as motorists and



A cyclist shows us how they do it in Boise, Idaho.

bikers alike remain aware of their surroundings.

“In a larger city where more people are on bicycles, I can see where the Idaho stop might make more sense,” he said.

But outside the main urban hub, other Gem Staters say they haven’t seen any upsides — in some cases, because they do not have traffic lights.

“We don’t have any stoplights here,” said Greg Wherry, editor of the Cottonwood Chronicle, which serves an Idaho town of 900. “There’s not even a blinker here in Cottonwood.”



The historic Slave Theater on Fulton Street faces an uncertain future.

Save the Slave!

Iconic Bed-Stuy theater faces final bow after latest sale

By Allegra Hobbs
The Brooklyn Paper

The show must go on!

A developer who just bought Bedford-Stuyvesant’s decrepit but historic Slave Theater should keep the famed civil rights site intact and allow a local performance company to transform it into a working playhouse once again, says the leader of the troupe.

“Our hope is that the new owners will keep the theater on the site and that we would hopefully occupy that theater,” said Jeff Strabone, board chairman of the New Brooklyn Theater, which had a similar handshake agreement with former owner the Fulton Halsey Development Group and had been planning and fund-raising the revival for years.

The New Brooklyn Theater now plans on reaching out to new owner Eli Hamway to discuss reviving the old deal, Strabone said.

But Hamway doesn’t exactly have a stellar history of choosing the arts over profit — he took over three Gowanus warehouses in October and promptly booted out around 300 artists who had been using them as studios.

The theater’s future has been up in the air since it closed in 1998 after then-owner Brooklyn Civil Court judge John Phillips — also known as the “kung-fu” judge — failed to pay taxes on the property after years of running it as a hub for black activism and handed it down to his nephew, Ohio reverend Samuel Boykin.

But the auditorium’s murals of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X just gathered dust under Boykin’s long tenure, which lasted until he sold to Fulton Halsey in early 2013.

Strabone said it would be a tragedy to lose the slice of neighborhood history, and, if nothing else, hopes the new owner doesn’t tear the building down for something the community can’t use.

“The worst case scenario would be for the new owners to demolish the theater and put nothing in its place,” he said.

Gifts for the toxic-canal lover

Gowanus Souvenir Shop is counting on there being one on your list

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Now you can take home a memento of your trip to the Gowanus Canal that isn’t a rash!

A pair of Gowanusites just opened a souvenir store selling trinkets, knickknacks, and novelties crafted by local artists in celebration of the neighborhood’s famed toxic waterway.

“Most of what we sell are custom-made for the shop to relate to any one of the many weird stories related to the canal,” said Ute Zimmermann, co-owner of the Gowanus Souvenir Shop on Union Street between Bond and Nevins streets.

The shop’s novelty wares occupy a space between art and irony, and include “Gowanus Swim Team” T-shirts, poison bottles labeled with various toxins found in the fetid neighborhood waterway, and handcrafted mutant action figures — all created by neighborhood makers, according to Zimmermann.

The owners, who have backgrounds in the art business, say they have generally relied on word of mouth to accrue a catalogue of



The Gowanus Souvenir Shop sells mutant masks and poison bottles to commemorate your visit to Brooklyn’s Nautical Purgatory.

talented locals to contribute to the shop.

Gowanus is known for all these makers and artists, and one person begets another,” said Zimmermann. “It happens organically and I was really surprised.”

The fledgling gift-emporium

owners are currently working with the neighborhood talent to develop new items to sell, and Zimmermann says the store will offer a

few fresh tchotchkes in time for Valentine’s Day.

“The funnest part of starting the shop so far has been getting to know and develop ideas with these people,” she said. “We have a lot more things we’re commissioning that are going to come, but that’s a process and we’ll see a lot more stuff in the spring.”

The gift store found its inspiration from Proteus Gowanus, a gallery and reading room that previously occupied the space on Union Street, and where Zimmermann worked for a time. Before it closed, the founder mentioned that the gallery had a gift store that did a roaring trade in postcards, and Zimmermann figured there might be a market for other Gowanus-themed items.

“She said the only thing that ever sold there were the Gowanus postcards, and then a light went off in my head,” said Zimmermann.

The Gowanus Souvenir Shop [543 Union St. between Bond and Nevins streets in Gowanus, entrance on Nevins Street, (424) 888-2869, www.gowanusouvenir.com].

It came from the Gowanus Canal...

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Black Friday has come and gone, but your kids are still pinning for the latest video game, your better-half still needs a new car, and your grandma just wants you to call — just one time — to say hi.

But they don’t know what they want for the holidays. Nobody does. Nobody, except The Brooklyn Paper, and we’re telling you there is only one place you need to shop this holiday season — the Gowanus Souvenir Shop, the world’s only source of novelty Gowanus Canal-themed trinkets.

We have selected five gifts

to thrill and delight your loved ones this Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa — helpfully modeled by shopkeeper James Delucia and his amazing hairdo.

For the assassin aunt: The holiday season is in full swing and you’re probably asking yourself, “What can I get my crazy murderous aunt?” The Gowanus Souvenir Shop’s signature poison bottles

(\$12 each, four for \$40) — each one labeled with one of the various harmful toxins located in Brooklyn’s Nautical Purgatory — is the perfect place for that special psychopath in your life to store their various blights and miasmas.

For the toxic teenager: So your son drank from the Gowanus. So he’s changing in ways that hormones and puberty can’t entirely account for. So he’s grown lit-

tle T-rex arms out of his abdomen, weaves a cocoon to sleep in at night, and eats flies he snatches from the air with his frog tongue. He’s still your son, and, on the bright side, at least there are fewer flies. Celebrate the man your abnormal freak of nature will soon become, and grab him a resin Mutie action figure (\$30, pictured left), hand crafted by the real ultimate mutant, Weird Luke of punk band Gowanus Mutant Kommandos.

For the extreme-sports fan: The Gowanus Canal is famous for being the most polluted waterway in the United States, and — in a possibly related turn

See GIFTS on page 6



This Gowanus Swim Team T-shirt is both fashionable and ironic.

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All at sea!

Plan to bring historic ship to Red Hook could sink

By Lauren Gill
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayday! Mayday!

A Red Hook dock owner's dream of bringing historic luxury passenger liner the S.S. United States to Brooklyn and turning it into a floating office and entertainment complex may be headed for Davy Jones' Locker if he can't find the backers to make it happen — and now other property sharks are circling.

The entrepreneur says he is treading water — investors won't commit until the boat's owners do, and the boat's skippers want them on board first.

"We're in a bit of a holding pattern," said John Quadrozzi Jr., who owns the Gowanus Bay Terminal at the end of Columbia Street. "Without that commitment it's hard for us to put together the support and the financing that would be necessary to make the vessel work here."

Quadrrozzi has been in talks with the ship's stewards for years, but the campaign to save and restore the craft—which is racking up bills languishing in a Philadelphia berth—became urgent in October when they sent out an S.O.S. to the world asking for money to help save the iconic vessel from the scrap heap.

The owners ultimately drummed up more than \$600,000 in donations — which should keep it afloat well into next year — but the campaign also scored the attention of real-estate moguls nation-wide. Meanwhile, Quadrozzi says his backers lost enthusiasm when they heard the boat was on the brink.

Now the Red Hook concrete tycoon has to compete with other developers who not only have the estimated \$50 to \$200 million needed to re-

I sailed on that ship!

Brooklynites can only dream of stepping foot on the deck of historic ocean liner the S.S. United States until a Red Hook dock owner succeeds in bringing it to our hallowed shores. Until then, live vicariously through this thrilling tale from legendary community newswoman Roz Liston, who sailed the high seas aboard the storied ship in its heyday!

It was a trip to remember.

Back in the twilight days
of the S.S. United States, I
See **SHIP** on page 6

Businessman John Quadrozzi Jr. wants to turn the S.S. United States as a floating office and entertainment facility on the Red Hook waterfront.

model the ship, but can also back up their plans with engineers and contractors, according to a spokesman for the S.S. United States Conservancy.

One of the competitors is just a short trip across the river—a mystery Manhattan developer reportedly has the money, but has not offered up a berth, according to Quadrozzi. Conversely, he has the dock, but is still appealing to donors, developers, investors, and government agencies to carry out his vision and fund the Titanic bill.

Quadrozzi wants to refit the S.S. United States with offices, restaurants, a gym, and a school, but said he has heard the hated Manhattan rival en-

visions the liner as a swanky hotel. The conservancy would not disclose any details, but did confirm that there is another New York City developer in the mix.

But Brooklyn needn't wave the white flag just yet — the conservancy said it is still interested in bringing its buoyant piece of history to Red Hook, it just needs more of a commitment to move ahead.

"In order to bring her to Brooklyn, we would also need to have some interest on the part of a developer to redevelop the ship and we are actively looking for someone who would be interested in doing that," said spokesman Tom Basile.



The S.S. United States cuts an impressive figure gliding through New York Harbor in 1952.



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Upzoning thumbs down

Beep, seven Council members reject DeBlasio’s plan

By Allegra Hobbs
The Brooklyn Paper

It is a thumbs down for up-zoning. Borough President Adams, Council members, and community board leaders voted against two key zoning changes Mayor DeBlasio is pushing as part a plan to increase the city’s housing stock and lower New Yorkers’ rents at a Borough Board meeting on Tuesday night.

The panel’s vote is only advisory, but adds to a growing chorus of opposition to the plans — the Manhattan, Queens, and Bronx borough boards have already rejected the proposals, along with the majority of Brooklyn’s community boards.

It also gives the first insight into where the borough’s Council members might stand when they cast the deciding votes next year. Most Brooklyn pols kept mum on their opinion leading up to the board vote — seven did not show up at all — but a spokeswoman for one pol said her boss thought it was important to stand in solidarity with community members.

“I think it sends a strong message that the majority of the delegation is in unison,” said Jennifer Gutierrez, a spokeswoman for Council-



This map of the community boards shows those that supported the upzoning plan (green), opposed the it (red), and have not yet voted (gray).

man Antonio Reynoso (D–Williamsburg). Seven of Brooklyn’s 16 Council members ultimately voted against the proposal — Reynoso, Laurie Cumbo (D–Clinton Hill), Alan Maisel (D–Marine Park), Carlos Menchaca (D–Sunset Park), Mark Treyger (D–Coney Island), Jumaane Williams (D–Canarsie), and Inez Barron (D–

East New York). The board voted 20–2 with two abstentions to reject the so-called “Zoning for Quality and Affordability” proposal — which would loosen building-size restrictions and parking requirements on new developments, especially those containing below-market-rate housing—and 20–1 with three abstentions against a second

proposal that would require big housing developments on rezoned land to include so-called “affordable” units.

The two abstentions came from Robert Cornegy (D–Bedford-Stuyvesant) and Stephen Levin (D–Boerum Hill) — Cornegy because the two community boards in his district were divided, and Levin because he said he wanted more time and community feedback before making up his mind.

The board’s “no” votes came with a hodgepodge of recommendations to improve the plan — amongst others, retaining parking spaces in transit-starved nabes like Bensonhurst and Greenpoint, more incentives to prevent developers from turning senior housing into market-rate housing in the future, more protections against big buildings that will stick out in low-rise areas, and amending the mandatory below-market housing scheme to include smaller developments.

Council members Chaim Deutsch (D–Sheepshead Bay), Rafael Espinal (D–Bushwick), Mathieu Eugene (D–Flatbush), Vincent Gentile (D–Bay Ridge), David Greenfield (D–Borough Park), Brad Lander (D–Park Slope), and Darlene Mealy (D–Browns-ville) were no-shows.

Double trouble

Look-alike thieves’ ATM scam

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

They’re each the evil twin!

Cops are looking for a pair of look-alike larcenists who stole debit card information and cash from at least 20 people in Brooklyn and Queens between April and June.

The two — who appear in police photos wearing matching glasses and Yankees hats

and sporting beards — doctored bank cash machines with “skimming devices” that copy debit card details, police said. Then they put the stolen personal information on blank cards and went out spending other people’s money, police allege.

The con men hit banks in Marine Park, Borough Park, Bay Ridge, Crown Heights, and Bedford-Stuyvesant — and at least three in Queens — be-



Cops say two scammers sporting beards, spectacles, and Yankees caps stole debit card information.

tween April 16 and June 15, police said. Officials did not release the exact locations.

Anyone with information regarding the crimes can call Crime Stoppers at

(800) 577-8477. You can also submit tips at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com or by texting tips to 274637 (CRIMES) then entering TIP577.

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Goon shoves man to ground, takes wallet

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–Dumbo–Boerum Hill–Downtown

A nogoodnik shoved a man to the ground and lifted his wallet and iPhone during an unsavory encounter on Bergen Street on Nov. 24.

The victim said he was near Bond Street at 12:30 am when a punk approached him and bulldozed him to the ground. Before he had time to get up, the rogue took his belongings and fled, according to a police report.

Snooze and lose

A thief took advantage of a snoozing subway rider when he nicked her wallet and made his escape at the Lawrence Street station on Nov. 26.

The victim told police she fell asleep on the Coney Island-bound N train at 4:35 am and when she woke up at the station near MetroTech, her phone was nowhere to be found. She spotted the sticky-fingered scoundrel at the train doors, but he managed to run into the station when the locomotive reached a stop and she was unable to match his

lightning-quick pace.

Shotty business

Someone shot a man in the leg while he was out for a late-night walk on Myrtle Avenue on Nov. 25.

The unlucky pedestrian was near Flatbush Avenue at 11:10 pm when he heard gun shots ring out. The victim started running and hopped into a cab. But when he reached safety, he discovered he had a bullet wound in his calf.

Bye dad

A crook stole a phone from a chatty traveller on Jay Street on Nov. 26.

The victim said he got off the train near York Street at 5:58 pm and was on the phone with his father when a sneak snatched his cell and fled.

— Lauren Gill

POLICE BLOTTER

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wheeler in an elevator.

Package picker

Some pirate swiped a package left on a stoop on Sackett Street on Nov. 25, according to police.

The rightful owner of the package was at work and said the delivery arrived at her apartment between Clinton and Court streets sometime around noon. She came home around 2:30 pm expecting to find a box containing a new pair of boots waiting for her, but came back to an empty doorstep. Package thefts tend to spike around the holidays, police said.

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Fraudulent fiend

An imposter scammed a woman living on 68th Street out of \$3,800 on Nov. 23 by posing as federal employee, police said.

The woman received a call around 12:30 pm at her home between Third and Fourth avenues from someone who said he was with the Internal Revenue Service.

She owed the government money, the shyster said, and the police would arrest her if

she did not send the dough.

The woman told police she was so scared that she immediately wired the money over to him.

Booze hounds

Two thirsty thieves broke into a Third Avenue nightclub sometime overnight on Nov. 24 and made off with a stash of cash and hooch.

The two smashed a lock on a side window to get into the club near the corner of 82nd Street sometime between midnight and 7 am the next day.

They took \$150 in cash from the register, but made their big hit behind the bar — the two snagged an estimated \$900 worth of the hard stuff, police said.

Jewel thief

A burglar stole jewelry out of a man's bedroom on Shore Road sometime between Nov. 20 and Nov. 24.

The victim was out of his apartment near 97th Street during that time, and when he came home he found three rings and two gold watches were missing from his room.

Video surveillance shows a man trying to get in through the first-floor bedroom window at one point, but the footage was apparently incomplete and does not show the actual break-in, according to

Police: Thief takes selfie, gets uploaded

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

The selfie in question.

Cops are hunting a guy who they say swiped a man's phone in Ditmas Park on Oct. 24, before using the cell to take a selfie that was instantly uploaded onto the victim's Google account.

The victim told police that he was pulling into the Beverly Road station aboard a Coney Island-bound Q train at 5:45 am, when the suspect snatched the Galaxy S3 from his hands and fled as the train doors opened.

Police caught a break in the case after the suspect's image suddenly appeared in the victim's Google account, which was linked to his phone, according to

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Cash grab

Someone swiped a man's stash of cash he had in a dresser drawer at his home on 68th Street sometime between Nov. 10 and Nov. 23.

The plunderer broke in through a window in the first-floor apartment near Fourth Avenue at some point while the man was gone for about two weeks in November.

He found the stash of \$10,000 in the drawer and made off with his massive take, police said.

— Dennis Lynch

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint–Northside

Frost bite

A reprobate broke into a Frost Street bar and swiped \$800 from a safe sometime between Nov. 25 and 27.

An employee was opening the bar near Meeker Avenue after the Thanksgiving holiday at 10 am on Nov. 27 and noticed someone had broken in since they closed on Nov. 25 at around 7:30 pm, according to a police report.

The employee said someone broke the automated teller machine and took an unknown amount of cash, and grabbed a small safe containing \$800 in cash, according to authorities.

The perp also took down the security camera and smashed part of it, cops said.

Authorities said the crook broke a lock and entered through the side of the bar.

Taxi cam

A cretin smashed his way into a taxi while it was parked on Nassau Avenue sometime between Nov. 23 and 25 and grabbed the surveillance camera.

The victim said he parked the cab between Lorimer Street and Manhattan Avenue at 4 pm on Nov. 23 and came back around 11:30 am two days later to find the front windows on both sides of the vehicle were broken and his surveillance camera had been ripped out, reported police.

Cuss out

A rude lout broke into a Norman Avenue apartment on Nov. 23 and swore up a storm at the neighbors when they caught him before fleeing empty-handed.

The two witnesses were in the apartment above the victim's in the building near Humboldt Street at 1 pm when they heard a loud bang coming from downstairs.

When the two witnesses saw the prying punk one of them said, "What the f--- are you doing?" and the perp snapped back, "Shut the f--- up," said cops.

The attempted thief fled before he could grab anything and exited through the door, which was damaged and with

a broken lock, cops said. Surveillance footage shows the villain fleeing down Humboldt Street towards Nassau Avenue on foot, authorities said.

90TH PRECINCT
Southside–Bushwick

No good deed

Two goons beat a do-gooder when he tried to offer them help at White and Varret streets in the early morning hours of Nov. 27.

The victim was leaving his girlfriend's house when he saw two guys who looked homeless and asked if they needed help, according to a police report.

The duo then began assaulting him, leaving him with an open wound to his left cheek, and ran off with his cellphone, cops said.

Tire job

A couple of crooks swiped the tires and rims off a guy's motorcycle while it was parked on Penn Street on Nov. 27.

The victim told cops he watched video surveillance footage from a camera near where his bike was parked between Marcy and Harrison avenues, and that he saw two guys remove the tires and rims off the vehicle at around 3:45 am.

The video shows a white minivan pull up and park directly in front of the victim's vehicle before the two thieves pinched the tires, police said.

Game swipe

A rogue broke into a Ten Eyck Street apartment and made off with a bunch of pricey video game equipment on Nov. 28.

The victim told cops he woke up around 4 am by lights and noise in his apartment between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street and saw a guy in his living room. The victim shouted "Where's my stuff?" and the rapscaillon hoofed it through the front door carrying a book bag, authorities said.

The crook took a Sony Playstation, four controllers, and three games, cops said.

Shadowy sneak

A punk swiped a wad of cash and some other belongings from a woman's Devoe Street apartment while she was sleeping on Nov. 24.

The scamp came into the woman's unlocked apartment between Lorimer and Leonard streets while she was sleeping between 3 and 8:45 am and snatched \$800 in cash, some credit cards, sets of keys, and her planner from her bedroom, according to a police report.

The woman told cops she woke up and saw a shadow on her bedroom floor, but thought she was dreaming.

— Allegra Hobbs

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Fire hydrant not included

Fort Greene dog owners pay to safely stash pooches

By Lauren Gill
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it a barking lot!
A new curbside kennel service in Fort Greene lets dog-owners pay to “park” their pooches while they run errands, which the creator says makes it easier to go see a man about a dog while you’re already out walking one.

“I hope they will make it a little easier to keep a dog in the city,” said Dog Parker inventor Chelsea Brownridge, who came up with the idea because she doesn’t like leaving her terrier Winston at their Bedford-Stuyvesant home when she is out and about.

Users pay \$25 to join, then 20 cents a minute or \$12 an hour to stash their hounds inside lockable boxes with a slim window at the front while they duck inside a cafe or do their banking, and Brownridge says around 50 people have signed up to the service so far.

Two of the boxes are up and running in the neighborhood now, but Brownridge hopes to have 100 out on Brooklyn streets by spring.

And neighborhood businesses report that they’re working as promised — more customers are coming inside now that their owners are unencumbered by canine companions, said one store-keep.



A Fort Greene hound gets up close with a Dog Parker. There are currently two of the pay-by-the-minute kennels in Brooklyn.



“Before, we usually had people asking for a menu and staying outside but now they can actually come inside,” said Keith Goldberg, who owns Baguetteaboutit bakery on Vanderbilt Avenue, one of two Dog Parker locations alongside the Fort

Greene General Store on DeKalb Avenue.

Some dog owners are freaked out by the idea of leaving their mutt locked inside a box on the street, so Brownridge says she is creating a mobile application where they will be able to watch their pups on in-kennel cameras and monitor the temperature inside the doghouses.

But dogs love being in enclosed spaces because they’re

den animals, Brownridge claims — though she acknowledges the experience isn’t for every man and his dog.

“There are plenty of dogs who don’t like kennels, but for the people who have signed up, their dogs have been comfortable with it,” she said.

And the boxes are no flea-bag motels, she says — someone swings by to sanitize them every day.

Step right up!

Boro Hall stoop back open

By Lauren Gill
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn’s Stoop is back — and just in time for winter!

The Borough Hall steps are back open to the public and Downtowners can once again chill out — now literally — at the iconic gathering place, which has been closed since June while city workers repave the surrounding plaza.

Parks contractors fenced off the treacherous space around the steps all summer while ripping up the crumbling bluestone tiles that have been a blight on the borough’s doorstep for years — tripping up pedestrians and presenting an embarrassing first impression to visitors.

The city is replacing the decrepit plates with tough See **STOOP** on page 7



The steps are open, but frigid temperatures have kept Downtowners heading for the break room instead of Borough Hall.

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(From left) The Brooklyn Youth Chorus belted out some lovely carols. Santa Claus ran the show from atop a fire truck. Attendees were treated to the sight of a real reindeer. (Below) Six-year-old twins Brandon and Siobhan Spears were all smiles to see the seasonal spectacle of MetroTech Center’s tree lighting ceremony on Monday.

Near and reindeer!

Live animals sleigh crowd at Downtown tree-lighting

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about horse power! Santa Claus parked his sleigh and two bona fide reindeers in the middle of Downtown’s MetroTech Commons on Monday when he flew in to attend the office complex’s annual tree lighting ceremony, delighting visitors who said they were even more impressed with

Father Christmas’s transportation alternative than the jolly fat man himself.

“I’ve always wanted to see a reindeer, and I finally saw one,” said Renee Joseph, who has worked at MetroTech for more than two years.

Santa was joined by a cavalcade of singers, dancers, clowns, firefighters, cops, and Nets players who all gathered below the giant arbor to celebrate

its illumination.

This year’s show went off without a hitch — a sharp contrast from last year’s tree-lighting ceremony, which was plagued by foul weather, creating an infamously slippery stage for performers.

“We tried to come last year, but it was sleeting and people were falling on stage, so this is our second year trying,” said Whitney Radia,

who came to the lighting with her 3-year-old daughter Roarke.

The show kicked off with the Grammy-award-winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus, who sang a few carols in the frigid December air, followed up by a dance routine courtesy of local dance crew Dance-wave, who worked up a sweat in festive sweaters.

Borough President Adams



made an appearance, along with Fire Department Commissioner Daniel Nigra, and Nets ballers Thaddeus Young and Chris McCollough.

Afterwards, Santa climbed aboard a nearby fire truck and travelled up on a cherry picker to the tree, where he officially inaugurated the holiday season by turning the lights on.

And kids — the most important and discerning tree-lighting critics — gave the spectacle their thumbs up.

“They had a wonderful time,” said Downtown worker Stacey Spears, who brought her 6-year-old kids Siobhan and Brandon.

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GOWANUS...

Continued from page 1

of events — it is also noted for producing some unnaturally strong swimmers. The Gowanus Souvenir Shop’s Gowanus Swim Team T-shirts (\$24) are a fashionable way for the extreme sporting fan in your life to show that she doesn’t just base-jump or ice-canoe like some schmuck — she is so extreme, she can swim through literal rivers of poop. Comes in all sizes, including a onesie for babies.

For the prodigal children: Kids these days are a mess. They’re lazy, disrespectful, and just not as good as kids used to be, you know, back in the day. But thanks to credit cards and frequent flier miles, they also love to travel. While you’re waiting for your kidults to return home and live on your couch, get them a 10-pack of the Gowanus Souvenir Shop’s vintage postcards (\$25). At least this way they’ll write, and you will ultimately get all these creepy old photos of the canal back. So really, it is a gift to yourself.

For the fitness buff: Oftentimes, when you’re known as the “fitness buff,” folks tend to disregard your taste in fine art. Make sure your favorite muscle-head isn’t subjected to unfounded stereotypes, and get him some tastefully artistic and vaguely weighty doorbell dumbbells crafted by local artist Tony Stanzone (\$70).

SHIP...

Continued from page 2

booked a trans-Atlantic crossing on the venerable ship from Southampton in England to New York. It marked the end of a yearlong stay for me in London, where I had a memorable time living in a flat without central heating, eating cans of baked beans when the pounds had just about run out and making several trips to High Holborn — the immigration office — wearing sunglasses to look like a rich American so I could extend my visa yet again.

The S.S. United States was a perfect way for me to segue back into American life. The stately ship had breathtaking interiors — a magnificent ballroom, expansive staterooms and inviting bars tucked into corners — that were a bit over the top. The look was mid-century design in a very posh setting, decidedly American in flavor and a welcome respite from the understated English decor of the time.

But this was not my class, dear, as the British are fond of saying. My cabin was in bilge class, down on the bottom deck not far from the engine room. But for an upstart American in her early 20s, a stateroom four levels below the first deck with portholes meant I had arrived — where I was not clear.

But I knew I had to upgrade my status to have freer run of the ship. Even before the United States left port, I had checked out first class, second class and the decks, so that my face would be familiar to the crew. As soon as the liner’s horns blew farewell to England and we started out to sea, I had parked myself in a deck chair in first class along with my cabin mate, a young English woman traveling to America for graduate studies.

She was up for the game, which started immediately when we were asked to leave first class. Somehow we managed to charm our way into staying put in our deck chairs, wrapped in elegant woolen blankets. And then we met someone I’ll call Martin.

He was a distinguished man of the world who moved in circles far from our small orbits. But Martin was a closet rebel at heart, it turned out, and had an outrageous sense of humor.

Bored with the ship’s class divisions and decorum, Martin invited us to dinner in the first class dining room, where many of the men wore black tie and the women formal dresses. We stowed the jeans and did the best we could to look upscale, which was a stretch, but Martin eased our way by showing up in a dress shirt with no tie.

The maitre d’ did not want to let us into the dining room, but Martin prevailed and it was clear to us that he was somebody, even as the waiters looked somewhat appalled at our total violation of the ship’s dress code.

Unspoken were the rules Martin laid down — first names only, no discussion of who we were in our lives beyond the ship and no questions asked. He did tell us he was traveling with his wife, whom he called a less polite version of the “old biddy.”

And so for the rest of our evenings on the ship we were first-class crashers as the dinner guests of the mysterious Martin, who delighted in breaking the rules.

As the ship entered New York Harbor, I happened to run into one of the first-class waiters who asked if I knew the identity of our elegant host. I wasn’t sure I wanted to know, but he told me we had been wined and dined by one of the world’s most famous jewelers. His name was synonymous with opulence, power, and discretion.

I never saw Martin again. But I look back on those five days on that luxury liner as a re-entry capsule for me to my New York roots and Martin’s insouciance as a reminder of what I had missed about America. He was the perfect dinner companion for the trip home.

Roz Liston is the esteemed editor of our sister publication in Queens, the TimesLedger.

Party pooper

Summer raves in W'burg haunt the new tenants

By Allegra Hobbs
The Brooklyn Paper

Community Board 1 knows what they did last summer.

The Williamsburg panel’s liquor license committee okayed a Vietnamese restaurant’s bid to open inside an industrial building at 99 Scott Ave. last Monday — but warned it better not see a repeat of the late-night raves that took place at the same property earlier this year, which members claim were rowdy and poorly regulated.

“Ninety-nine Scott is a big problem,” said committee member Tom Burrows.

The committee unanimously approved hip Queens restaurant Bunker Vietnamese’s application to open a new outpost at the site on the corner of Randolph Street, but only after the eatery’s owners — who are leasing the space — distanced themselves from the location’s party-hearty history. The full board subjected a winery applying to open on the site to a similar grilling in August, though ultimately approved that license as well.

Locals are still smart-

ing after building owner Bushwack Capital rented the then-vacant space out over the summer to party promoter City Fox — now notorious for its thwarted attempt to hold a rave at a toxic Greenpoint factory last month — who turned it into a pop-up outdoor nightclub called the Brooklyn Mirage.

And because it was a temporary venue, the company didn’t have to consult the community board before obtaining a booze-serving permit — a fact that bugged some committee members, even though it was by the book, because the first they heard of the venue was when they heard the venue.

Neighbors filed six noise complaints against the property in the months of August and September, three on the night of a Mirage party that ran until 6 am, according to city records.

Bunker’s owners assured the committee they had no affiliation with the discos and are not planning any all-night ragers.

They said their restaurant space would be a modest operation with an outdoor space that is encased in ce-



(Left) The new development Bushwack Capital is building on Scott Avenue at Randolph Street — residents say they hope the company won’t rent it out for more dance parties like the Brooklyn Mirage (right), as it did in summer.



ment to block sound.

Bushwack also promise the property’s bass-dropping days are behind it — in addition to the winery and restaurant, it plans on filling a new development there with offices and an event hall that it claims will host wedding receptions.

“Our goal is not to be a huge nightclub destination or a place where there’s a lot of drinking and stuff like that going on,” said managing partner Dawson Stellberger, whose firm bought the property in December of last year.

He said the developer only realized there were hard feelings over its property’s hard-partying summer when the winery faced

opposition from the board. He claims his firm passed off all operations to the promoter during that period, and was completely unaware the temporary space-fillers were bothering neighbors.

Stellberger attended Monday’s committee meeting and spoke with members, which he hopes smoothed over some of the ruffled feathers.

“I was happy,” he said. “I thought they were going to be more negative than they were.”

The full community board will still need to vote on the application, though its decision is only a recommendation — the State Liquor Authority ultimately decides who does and does not get a booze license.

STOOP...

Continued from page 5

granite tiles as part of an \$11-million facelift of the plaza and Columbus Park, which is bounded by Joralemon, Court, Johnson, and Adams streets, and Cadman Plaza West.

Workers have now finished repaving a large swathe of the area in front of the People’s House and the sidewalk along Adams and Joralemon streets, but the entire project isn’t slated for completion until September next year — so pedestrians will still have to navigate around construc-

tion fences while trying to traverse the plaza.

Borough Hall and its surroundings are landmarked, but the old paving was only installed in 1987, making it no more historically important than the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge or Bananarama’s Dumbo-filmed music video for “Cruel Summer.”

Former Borough President Marty Markowitz nevertheless fought the idea of lining the streets with anything but bluestones, though his resolve wore down as the tiles did.

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Musical dining chairs

Ted and Honey closes, another favorite taking over

By Lauren Gill
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about bittersweet news! Popular Cobble Hill brunch spot Ted and Honey closed its doors last Sunday, but don't go crying into that steel-cut oatmeal just yet — the people behind equally beloved neighboring restaurant La Vara will re-open them later this month, and the outgoing owner is sure they'll keep the local favorite alive for years to come.

"I feel like it was a great choice," said Michelle Mannix, who ran the family friendly cafe on Clinton Street next to Cobble Hill Park from 2008. "They know the neighborhood and they're going to be in it for the long haul!"

La Vara's chef and co-owner Alex Raji has turned her three-year-old restaurant into a dining destination two doors down, serving up acclaimed Jewish and Moorish influenced Spanish grub.

But Mannix says locals who relied on Ted and Honey for their coffee and scrambled



Ted and Honey owner Michelle Mannix with her brother Chris "Ted" Jackson (with his child Sofie), who originally co-founded the Cobble Hill cafe with her.

egg fix needn't fear — Raji will continue to run an all-day cafe in the space when she takes over in mid-December.

Mannix says she is leaving to spend more time with her family, but will miss all of the regulars and people who have worked with her over the years. The community's support since she announced the closure last week has been overwhelming, she said.

"The whole neighborhood has been expressing how sad they are to see us go," said Mannix.

Raji did not return requests for comment by press time.

Forever 21 returns to Fulton Mall

By Lauren Gill
The Brooklyn Paper

It is back on rack! Fast-fashion giant Forever 21 made its triumphant return to Fulton Mall last weekend after leaving eight years ago, and shoppers welcomed it back to the strip with open arms — and wallets.

"It should have never left," said Brownsville resident Rotisha Blake.

The economical emporium opened an outlet of its cheaper-than-cheap F21 Red spinoff at the corner of Bond Street — across from its former location in the now defunct Albee Square Mall — which will sell Forever 21 basics like tank tops, jeans, and T-shirts for the price of a hot-dog.



The new F21 Red opened its first Brooklyn location at 490 Fulton St.

The bargain basement retailer opened its first New York F21 Red store in Queens earlier this year and the new Fulton Street outpost marks its first in the borough. The store is across the road from the forthcoming City-Point mall, which will house a Target and Century 21. F21 Red (490 Fulton St. at Bond Street Downtown).



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Santa paws

Poses for holiday photos with doggy Kris Kringle

By Dennis Lynch
The Brooklyn Paper

Get snug with a pug for the holidays! Holiday revelers who want a photo with Santa Claus can switch things up this holiday season by having a tiny Santa sit on their lap!

At the Grumpy Bert gift shop and art gallery in Boerum Hill on Dec. 6 and 13, Remy, the gallery's beloved shop dog, will get a jolly makeover to look like Saint Nick, and will pose with humans and other pooches alike, said the gallery's owner and name-sake.

"We're getting a Christmas tree, decorating, so it's going to look festive, and we'll have photo lights set up," said Albert Chau. "It's for humans and four-legged creatures too."

This is the first time Chau and his wife Lynne have dressed up Remy for such a shoot, so they plan to keep the canine Claus on his best behavior with the help of treats, he said.

"His favorite treats are carrots, so he's probably going to get a lot of carrots," said Chau.

The 4-and-a-half-year-old pug is a fixture at the gallery. Since the Chaus opened the space in 2012, he has kept patrons company during shopping hours, at art shows, and during Lynne's Lost Lit writing workshops and readings.

"He's been around since the beginning," said Chau. "Everyone pretty much adores him, so he's like our little shop mascot. There's neighborhood people that just come in and ask for him."

Remy is so popular with artists that many have pushed the Chaus to hold an art show dedicated to the pooch.

"They aren't very patient, they're always giving us Remy art, like portraits of him," said Chau. Some of that art can be seen on the Remy the Pug Instagram page.

For those who want to meet Santa's little helper before their photoshoot, the pooch will attend opening of the gallery's annual FlipBookKit Show on Dec. 5 at 6 pm. The show will feature flipbook art (also called kineographs) from 44 artists set inside of customized contraptions that rapidly flip the images to create an animation.

"Take A Photo With Santa Remy Claus" at Grumpy Bert [82 Bond St. between State Street and Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (347) 855-4849, www.grumpybert.com]. Dec. 6 and 13, 10 am-noon. Free.



Remy Claus is coming to town: Stop by Grumpy Bert's art shop at 82 Bond St. on Dec. 6 and 13 for free portraits with Remy the pug dressed as Kris Kringle himself.



Hoopla: Anya Sapozhnikova and Kae Burke check out the seating in the new House of Yes.

Jingle sells

Santa shills soda in high-flying show

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it the House of "Yes, Virginia." The theatrical performance space House of Yes, which was priced out of its Williamsburg location in 2012, will re-open on Dec. 10 in a Bushwick warehouse tricked out with zip lines, rigging, and a climbable wall. And the artists behind the innovative new venue will celebrate the grand opening with a Christmas Spectacular featuring practically every manner of theatrical performance under the sun.

"It's every genre we like, which is a lot, crammed into one show," said House of Yes

co-owner and performer Anya Sapozhnikova. House of Yes has hosted Christmas extravaganza's before, but the venue's inaugural performance show will be its first holiday show with a plot — previous incarnations were more akin to variety shows with a theme, according to co-owner and performer Kae Burke, who wrote and directed the show along with Sapozhnikova. The story begins as Santa Claus accepts a new marketing gig as the brand ambassador of a highly addictive energy drink called XXX-mas Cheer, and the extravaganza follows his misadventures during a promotional tour for the toxic swill, the writers said.



Affirmative action: Anya Sapozhnikova performs some aerial stunts, while fellow performer Kae Burke looks on.

Old Saint Nick struggles with his new duties promoting the beverage and potential narcotic, and by the end of the show, everybody learns an important lesson. "He falls into all sorts of adventures and learns the true meaning of Christmas," said Burke. House of Yes specializes in the art of aerial dance, and the owners have been hard at work for over a year rigging up all sorts of neat contraptions to take the performance off the stage and into the air, said Sapozhnikova.

But aerial dancers are just one part of House of Yes's holiday spectacular, and the show, which will include 24 different theater artists, will offer something for every fan of performance art, including ballet, precision dancing, musical theater, and more, Burke said. "It's basically an entire collaboration of creative shenanigans," she said. Holiday Spectacular at House of Yes [4 Wyckoff Ave. at Jefferson Street in Bushwick, www.houseofyes.org] Dec. 10-13 at 8 pm. \$30 (\$50 VIP).

THEATER

Great Scott



Pour spirits in thine ear — and thine mouth!

A crafty theater company is staging a boozy production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" inside Williamsburg's New York Distilling Company from Dec. 7 to 13, where audience members will watch the Scottish play while sipping actual Scotch — or at least rye whiskey — a pairing the director says goes together as perfectly as eye of newt and toe of frog.

"A lot of the poetry of this play works well with the extended metaphor of distilling and of the spirits — in the double entendre of 'spirits,'" said "Macbeth: Things Bad Begun" director Jamie Watkins of performance collective Masterfool.

The evening begins with a hot toddy and ends with an open-bar after-party serving "Macbeth"-themed cocktails — titles include the Sainted King and the Hurly Burly — creating a seamless booze-infused experience that is a one-of-a-kind feast for the eyes, ears, and liver, said an organizer.

"From the moment that they walk in until they walk out at the end of the experience, they've really been somewhere and done something they've never done before," said Miriam Thom of event company Fox Wolf, which produced an acclaimed version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with Masterfool inside the Richardson Street firewater factory earlier this year.

The distillery itself plays a big role in the show, Watkins said — the players perform all over the cavernous space, which is filled with oak barrels, copper stills, and functioning industrial machinery that take the audience on a journey back to old Scotland, with a little old New York in the mix.

"The space has a lot of whiskey barrels, which are used in the staging of the show," he said. "We are making full use of the distillery space as a playing area."

And the thespian group is thrilled to be able to show off the neighborhood hooch workshop and its wares to a wider audience in return, Thom said.

"Being able to bring in partners, support the community, and just be a big part of Williamsburg in that way, that felt really important to us," she said.

"Macbeth: Things Bad Begun" at New York Distilling Company [79 Richardson St. between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg, (718) 412-0874, www.foxwolfproductions.nyc]. Dec. 7-13 at 7 pm. \$40 (\$35 in advance).

— Loren Noveck

CULTURE

History walk



She is showing off Brooklyn's past! A new series of tours celebrating Brooklyn's black cultural history is bringing new visitors to the neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, and Flatbush. The woman organizing the Brooklyn Heritage Tours says they are driven by her love for history, and her desire to promote black culture in the borough.

"My core goal and purpose is to really promote Brooklyn and Brooklyn tourism focusing on African-American neighborhoods, districts, and communities," says Chimene Montgomery.

For Montgomery, who comes from Cameroon, cultural tourism focusing on African, African-American, and Caribbean culture in Brooklyn is a way to ensure that the culture receives the respect it deserves.

"Who really owns this heritage and culture? If we don't get a hold on trying to bring visitation and creating value into our own communities and neighborhoods, we're going to miss out," she said.

Montgomery started the tours in October, leading intimate groups to sample traditional Senegalese cuisine at Joloff Restaurant and visiting cultural sites like the Arlington Place Bed and Breakfast, built in 1887. Other stops have included Spike Lee's mansion and the Weeksville Heritage Center, which focuses on black life in Brooklyn during the 19th Century.

The tours generally travel by luxury mini-bus, but larger groups use larger coach busses.

Montgomery aligns her tour schedule with community calendars, so that each tour can coincide with special events such as outdoor concerts or gallery shows that speak to the ethos of the community. Each tour will be unique, she promises.

"It's going to change all the time. It's going to include sounds of central Brooklyn from bebop to hip-hop, follow the different migration patterns from Harlem to Brooklyn, include food like visiting Ali's Roti Shop, and even visiting the mas camps," she said, referring to the groups that create costumes and masks for carnivals.

Her next tour will visit Crown Heights in December, and she hopes to increase her schedule to eight tours per month starting in 2016.

"I'm looking to definitely increase tourist numbers by 30 percent," she said.

Montgomery is also working to create an app to provide historical Brooklyn facts for each day of the year.

"Inside Crown Heights" tour on Dec. 12-14. Contact Montgomery at www.brooklynheritagetours.com for details. \$40. — Alley Olivier

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

Dec. 4

Swede sounds

The Issue Project Room's annual Swedish Energies Festival returns for a fifth year, once again bringing electronic and improvisational musicians from the Land of the Midnight Sun to the borough of Kings for two days of free tunes. Issue Project Room is still closed for renovations, so this year it will take place at Greenpoint heavy metal bar Saint Vitus.

8 pm at Saint Vitus (1120 Manhattan Ave. between Clay and Box streets in Greenpoint, www.issue-projectroom.org). Free.

SATURDAY

Dec. 5

W'burg calling

It's up to you to heed this call up! Rock the casbah — whatever the hell that is — when the Clash tribute act Straight To Hell plays monthly glam-rock and punk party Glamdammit. Legendary club kid Astro Erle is hosting, and there will be free Pabst Blue Ribbon between 11 pm and midnight.

11 pm [the 245 Grand St. between Driggs Avenue and Roebling Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6610, www.thegrandvictory.com]. \$7.

THE CLASH

STRAIGHT TO HELL

SUNDAY

Dec. 6

Yid rock

Celebrate the first night of Hanukkah by watching the Chabad of Park Slope light up its giant menorah at Grand Army Plaza while Jewish rock band Pey Dalid kicks out the jams. There will be free latkes on this and every subsequent night of the Festival of Lights.

5 pm at Grand Army Plaza (between Plaza Street West and Plaza Street East in Prospect Heights, www.chabadparkslope.com). Free.

TUESDAY

Dec. 8

Hot ticket to ride

Somehow there are still tickets available to two editions of comedian Wyatt Cenac's special six-show run of his "Night Train" standup show at Littlefield. Cenac will host yuksters including Aparna Nancherla, Roy Wood Jr., and Brooke Van Poppelen at late-night editions Tuesday and Wednesday — which NBC will record for a web series.

10 pm at Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, www.littlefieldnyc.com). \$5.

WYATT CENAC

THURSDAY

Dec. 9

Glazer-ing over

Ditmas Park funnyman Eliot Glazer will host a special holiday edition of his musical comedy night "Haunting Renditions Live," in which he performs pop songs as heart-felt ballads. Why special? Well, he's bringing his sister Ilana — of "Broad City" fame — and there will be seasonally appropriate tunes.

8 pm at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third streets in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouse-ny.com]. \$10–\$12.

ELIOT GLAZER

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, DEC. 4

MICHAEL LEE: The mentalist and death-defying escape artist will make an appearance at the annual Christmas celebration, for a fun filled family day. Civilians entering the base must provide proper ID. Free. 2 pm. Ft. Hamilton Army Base [Seventh Ave. and Poly Place in Bay Ridge, (718) 630-4771], www.hamiltonmwr.com.

TREE LIGHTING: Local schools, PS 38 and PS 261 along with various cultural organizations light the tree with a special visit by Santa. Tasty treats follow — please bring a new toy or book for the annual Toy Drive. Free. 6 pm to 8 pm. Belarusian Church (Atlantic Ave. and Bond St. in Brooklyn Heights), www.atlanticavenuebrooklyn.wordpress.com.

FILM, "A CHRISTMAS STORY": Free. 7 pm. La Gringa Taqueria [800 Grand St. between Bushwick Avenue and Humboldt Street in Williamsburg, (646) 861-3701], lagringtonyc.com.

OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN: Each night this month, the Open Source Gallery hosts an artist who cooks a free meal for 15-20 people and provides some kind of artistic element, like an exhibit, performance, or decoration. Free. 7-9 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279-3969], www.open-source-gallery.org.

DANCE, "CONTINU": 21 dancers perform. \$20. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org.

THEATER, "BETHLEHEM" — A SATURNALIA MUSICAL LIVE FROM OCCUPIED JUDEA: A bilingual musical pageant about that retells the nativity story from the point of view of those who didn't make it into the Gospels — the innkeepers and guests at the inn. \$15–\$20. 7:30 pm. St. Paul's Theater (334 S. Fifth St. at Rodney Street in Williamsburg), www.stpaulsbrooklyn.org.

DANCE, "SOMNIPATH": Inclined Dance Project presents an evening-length dance work inspired by various sleeping disorders. \$20 (\$16 in advance). 7:30 pm. The Actors Fund Arts Center (160 Schermerhorn St. between Smith and Hoyt streets in

Get thee behind me: The New York Islanders will zip in front of the New Jersey Devils when they face off at Barclays Center on Dec. 13.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, DEC 4

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS ST. LOUIS BLUES: \$70–\$1,750. 7:30 pm.

SAT, DEC 5

SPORTS, DANIEL JACOBS VS PETER QUILLIN: \$57–\$457. Time TBD.

SUN, DEC 6

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS: \$59–\$4,000. 6 pm.

TUE, DEC 8

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS HOUSTON ROCKETS: \$25–\$4,000. 7:30 pm.

THU, DEC 10

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS PHILADELPHIA 76ERS: \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

SAT, DEC 12

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS: \$40–\$4,000. 5 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

Downtown), www.actorsfund.org/services-and-programs/AFAC.

DANCE, ASSIMILATION: An Afrofuturistic dance choreographed and performed by Malik Nashad Sharpe. A talkback session will take place after the show. Free. 8 pm. FiveMyles Gallery [558 St Johns Place between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights, (718) 783-4438], www.fivemyles.org.

MUSIC, NEW BREW'S FESTIVUS FUGAL FETE: Opera on Tap celebrates the music of winter with songs by Raphael Fusco, Gilda Lyons, David Lang, Tom Cipullo and new arrangements by Kamala Sankaram. Free. 8 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

THEATER, TESTIFY — A CHOREO-POEM: Young people of color preach, scream, bear witness and share their stories of loneliness, heartbreak, and sex through playwright Monica Prince's decadent poetry. \$10 in advance \$15 at the door. 8 pm. St. Paul's Theater (334 S. Fifth St. at Rodney Street in Williamsburg), www.thecutouttheatre.org/testify-a-choreopoem.

A '70S CHRISTMAS CAROL: Was-sabasco Burlesque presents a sexy strip-tease version of the Dickens classic. \$20. 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-house-ny.com.

SAT, DEC. 5

MUSIC, HOLIDAY JAZZ VESPERS SERVICE: \$20. 5 pm. Devoe Street Baptist Church [140 Devoe St. between Manhattan and Graham avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 387-5075].

MUSIC, RUBBER SOUL 50: Three Brooklyn bands perform the Beatles See 9 DAYS on page 12

CNG

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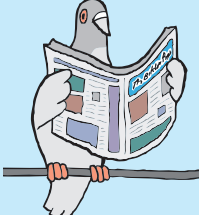
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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

album "Rubber Soul" in its entirety. With Sun Thief, Ben Clark and the Long Shadows, and All Night Chemists. \$5 suggested donation. 8 pm. The Vay Station [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (718) 627-4949], www.vaystationbk.com.

THEATER, "IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY": The Gallery Players present a holiday farce. \$18 (\$15 children and seniors). 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101], www.galleryplayers.com.

PARK SLOPE WINTER FLEA MARKET: This long-running, excellent neighborhood flea market has an eclectic collection of vendors offering a wide selection with many bargains. **Free.** 8:30 am–5 pm. P5321 (180 Seventh Ave. between First and Second streets in Park Slope).

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE: Shop for the holidays, with raffles, Christmas items, gift baskets, jewelry, pastries, photos with Santa, and more. Lunch available. **Free.** 9:30 am–4 pm. St. Mary's Couri Hall [81 Street at Ridge Boulevard in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-8008].

FUND RAISER, HOLIDAY FLEA MARKET AND FUNDRAISER: With seasonal and holiday decorations, antiques, handcrafted gifts, a silent auction, and white elephant gifts. **Free.** 10 am–4 pm. Pope John Paul II House [255 Ovington Ave. between Third Avenue and Bay Ridge Place; Community Room in Bay Ridge].

WINTER JAMBOREE: Face painting, tattoos, arts and crafts, a bake sale, snacks and balloons! Special appearances by City Stomp and Erin Silber, along with a visit from Santa. \$25 per family (\$20 for members). 9:30 am–noon. Families First Brooklyn [250 Baltic St. between Court and Clinton streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 237-1862], www.familiesfirstbrooklyn.org.

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY: Explore New York City's oldest house and experience the Dutch tradition of Sinterklaas which evolved into the American tradition of Santa Claus, with colonial music, treats, stories, and crafts. \$5 (\$3 children). 1–4 pm. Wyckoff House Museum [5816 Clarendon Rd. at E. 59th Street in Canarsie, (718) 629-5400], wyckoff-museum.org.



Sebastian Borech

Keep calm and dance on: German dance-theater icon Sasha Waltz will present "Continu" — in which 21 dancers will "hurtle through a landscape of chaos yielding to calm" — at Brooklyn Academy of Music on Dec. 4.

SUN, DEC. 6

MUSIC, THE LANDLADY HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR: An enchanted night of music intertwined with the premier production of "Red Velvet: An Ill-Conceived Santa Story." Starting at \$12. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhousesny.com.

NORTH WILLIAMSBURG Y COMMUNITY-WIDE CHANUKAH EVENT!: Celebrate the Festival of Lights with music, arts and crafts, face painting and so much more! Free for everyone, the more the merrier! **Free.** 11 am–1 pm. North Williamsburg Y preschool [14 Hope St. Suite 1, between Roebling and Havemeyer streets in Williamsburg, (718) 407-6388], www.northwilliamsburgny.org.

FILM, "WINGS": silent film, presented with live piano accompaniment. **Free.** 12:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

HUNKKAH PARTY: Come light the first candle with friends from the community. 2 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [8025 Fourth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-3103], www.brjc.org.

FORT GREENE PARK TREE LIGHTING: Celebrate the second annual tree lighting, complete with caroling, hot chocolate, cookies, and Santa! Bring gifts to support the toy drive and

bring the best spirit you've got for mingling with your neighbors. **Free.** 5 pm. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center [Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 722-3218].

MON, DEC. 7

GOT IT, YOU GOT IT: A showcase of work by transgender, working class, and other marginalized queer artists. Original work will be raffled off to benefit the Queer Detainee Empowerment Program. **Free.** 7:30–11 pm. Gallery House [272 Clinton Ave. between Willoughby and Dekalb avenues in Clinton Hill], www.galleryhouse.org.

TUES, DEC. 8

MUSIC, BEYOND: A video and sound performance by Ursula Scherrer. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

MOVIE TRIVIA: Six rounds, including famous movie quotes, not so famous movie quotes, and Nicolas Cage quotes. **Free.** 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in

Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

WED, DEC. 9

"WALKING WITH 'TRANE': The Urban Bush Women present this work inspired by the life and work of legendary jazz saxophonist John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme." Appropriate for older teens. \$20–60. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

COMEDY, TRAILER PARK BOYS "DEAR SANTA CLAUS" TOUR: The drunken Trailer Park Boys alternately try to spread the true meaning of Christmas, cash in on the festive season, and deal with an intoxicated buddy and his cheeseburger-eating sidekick. \$39–\$59. 8 pm. Kings Theatre [1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush], www.kingstheatre.com.

THURS, DEC. 10

GRAND MENORAH LIGHTING: Join us at our Public Menorah Lighting with singing, Chanukah gelt, and a souvenir. 3:30pm. \$13 (\$10 seniors). 3:30 pm. Jewish Children's Museum [792

Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 907-8833], www.jcm.museum.

TALK, "POLITICAL ART IS UNCOMFORTABLE KNOWLEDGE": A conversation between Dread Scott and Tania Bruguera, artists who use their work as a tool for social change. Free with \$16 suggested admission. 7 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

TREE LIGHTING: Celebrate the Holiday Season with your neighbors! Enjoy live music and food and drink from local businesses; Santa will be giving out donated toys to children in the community. **Free.** 6 pm to 7:30 pm. The Human Compass Garden [Columbia and Sackett streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 243-9302].

SAT, DEC. 12

OUTDOORS, WORLD'S LARGEST CONGA LINE ON ICE: Join this attempt to set the world's record for the longest ice-skating conga line. Ticket price includes skate rental, and will benefit Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. \$15. 10 am. LeFrak Center at Lakeside [171 East Dr. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 462-0010], www.lakesidebrooklyn.com.

DANCE, SPOKE THE HUB'S STUDENT-FACULTY BENEFIT CONCERT: The faculty and student body showcase what they have been studying and creating during the first fall semester of classes. \$20. 7 pm. Spoke the Hub [295 Douglass St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], https://spokethehub.org.

MUSIC, THE VIENNA BOYS CHOIR: "Christmas in Vienna" showcases these gifted musicians in a program of Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, and holiday favorites. \$36–\$45. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE: Singing, music, dance and a sing-a-long for all ages. \$10 suggested donation. 7 pm. Congregation beth Elohim [8th Ave at Garfield Place in Park Slope].

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RESURRECTED

Work begins on long-awaited church

By Dennis Lynch
The Brooklyn Paper

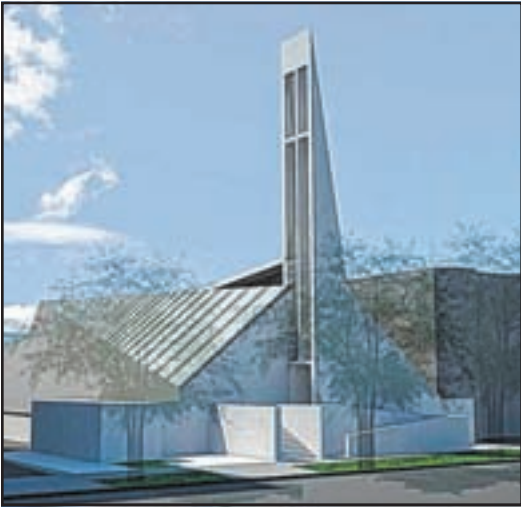
They finally got the green light.

Workers broke ground on a new “Green Church” on Ovington Avenue earlier this month — seven years after the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church demolished the deteriorating, century-old house of worship to preservationists’ chagrin and sold most of the land with promises to build an easier-to-maintain chapel on the remainder. The new church’s scale will not be quite as grand as the old one’s, nor will it have the green-tinged, serpentine stone facade that lent the long-gone house of god its nickname, but it will be green in another way, according to the pastor.

“We’re going to have solar power,” said congregation pastor the Rev. Robert Emerick. “It’s really the Green Church now. It’s the new Green Church.”

The congregation sold the land in 2008, because maintaining the then-109-year-old church was too costly. The buyer planned to build condos there, but he sold the site to the city for \$10 million in 2009 to build PS 331.

Parishioners successfully lobbied the National Parks Foundation to list the original church on its National Register of Historic Places in 1999,



A rendering shows the modern design for the new Bay Ridge United Methodist Church building at 364 Ovington Ave. The demolished church is below.



but when the site’s judgment day came a decade later, it was preservationists who fiercely opposed the temple’s destruction and congregants themselves who warned that sparing the ball would spoil the church. Worshippers thought it imprudent to “keep plowing money into a building” when they could spend the green advancing their religious mission, according to Emerick.

Church leaders promised to erect a new worship space on land alongside the school, but hold-ups obtaining the Department of Buildings’ approval kept contractors from breaking ground until now, Emerick said.

“It’s been a continuous haul since we started with the demolition,” he said. “It’s just taken this long to get everything ready and the process approved.”

The new church will occupy an Ovington Avenue plot the congregation retained when it sold off the rest of the lot in the aughts. The smaller complex is adequate for the 40-person congregation and will include some classrooms and church office space, Emerick said.

Still, the new church is no replacement for its iconic predecessor, said one neighbor who led preservation efforts seven years ago.

“I’m glad the church is keeping it’s commitment to parishioners, but I saw the renderings, and it doesn’t compare to what was there before,” said Victoria Homfo. “We’re sorry that the church had to come down at all.”



Father-son duo Howard Collins and Howard Collins Jr. were happy to lend a hand at the turkey drive.

Taking wing

Bed-Stuy turkey giveaway

By Allegra Hobbs
The Brooklyn Paper

Hometown celebrities banded together for a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway at a Bedford-Stuyvesant community center on Nov. 24 — but residents were the real stars of the show and the main event was the season of giving, according to one volunteer.

“The highlight was feeding

the people in Brooklyn, feeding the less fortunate, and being thankful,” said Brownsville resident Howard Collins, who helped dole out 300 free holiday birds at the Roosevelt Community Center alongside his 7-year-old son Howard Collins Jr.

Recognizable city-dwellers including rapper Lil Mama and New York Giants legend Deon Grant also showed up to hand out fowls to locals in need.

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The best of the fake toys

With the holiday season upon us and tots with their eyes all gosh-darn aglow, it is time to buy toys. This year, some are moving faster than others.

And then there are the ones not moving at all:

Arm-Os: Just like Legos, except shaped like arms. Kind of hard to snap together — and disturbing once you do.

Grown-Up Mutant Ninja Turtles: Still living in a sewer, but now plagued by back problems, wheezing, and “shell bunions.” (Don’t ask!)

Coolidge Logs: Modernized Lincoln Logs. But not that modernized.

Spider Farm: Just like an ant farm, but with eight legs.

Bryan Cranston Chemistry Set: “Hey kids. Clean up that meth you made!”

Tickle Me and I’ll See



Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

You In Court, Elmo: A chastened Elmo neither tickles nor accepts tickling. He always has another adult Muppet present and wears a body camera.

Mr. Pot-Head and his wife, Mrs. Pot-Head: Put eyes all over them! Add an upside-down mustache, and how about a hat for a nose? Sooooo funny! Oh my God, like, seriously, that is the funniest thing ever, ever, ever.

Easy Break Oven: Half the price of the Hasbro models.

Barbie’s Over-Mortgaged Dream House: Of course Barbie’s got a job!

She’s got three: Astronaut, pop singer, veterinarian. And she’s *still* underwater. (Ken is AWOL with some Bratz doll.)

Cabbage Patch Cabbage: Better than the old Cabbage Patch Kids, because you can boil these or serve stuffed with ground meat and rice.

Skinky: Wrap these long metal coils around a friend’s wrists. Voila! Homemade handcuffs. Have fun!

Trumby: Bombastic, ginger-haired rubber figurine that will not let any toys from Syria into the playpen.

Ouija Bored: Slightly testy tool for communicat-

ing with the dead, often spelling out, “He’s fine. Quit asking.” Or, “She’s busy ... for eternity.”

Power-Hungry Rangers: These Rangers roam the Interstate issuing exorbitant traffic tickets for cracked brake lights and failing to signal a lane change.

Payola Crayons: Crayons that will draw anything for you, for a price.

Chutes and Bladders: Get to the bathroom at the top of the board as fast as you can! Hurry!

Bernie Babies: Bernie Babies don’t smile much, but they are earnest, they are angry, and they come with a plush copy of Das Kapital. Bernies are not available for sale — “Unlike our government!” as the Bernie motto goes.

Stomp Drones: One, two, three — stomp! Congratulations, you’ve launched your own personal attack drone. Watch it sail beyond your neighborhood, over the ocean and into the Middle East where who-knows-what mischief it may cause? Time to get out your Nerf Grenade Launcher!

Rubik’s Cubicle: Twist this super-sized toy into a cramped and lonely workspace devoid of hope and cheer. Add a family photo! (But it won’t do any good.)

Barrel of Monks: Now quite as much fun as its predecessor, and a very quiet toy.

Mobbed-Up Chatty Cathy: Cathy isn’t so chatty anymore. In fact, she didn’t see nothin’ and she’s not sayin’ nothin’.

See ‘n’ Swear: Pull the string and see someone steal dad’s parking space! What does daddy say now?

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and author and founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.



Dinner time.

A perfect moment to talk about alcohol.

For tips on how — and when — to begin the conversation, visit: www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov



Raising my voice, & expectations

How did this happen? The holidays are upon us, and it is scary how fast time has gone. My older one is taller than I am and sporting a faint mustache. The younger one is a beanpole, who is shooting up tall, takes the subway by himself, and plans his own meals. It is a new world, in which I have absolutely no clue how to act.

We fought during Thanksgiving weekend about silly things, like how they stayed in bed too long and delayed our trip to the Museum of Modern Art and how they wore jeans and sweatpants when I wanted them to wear nicer clothes. These things seemed, at the moment, monumental. How can they get anywhere in life if they don’t get up and out of bed? How is it that I have not taught them the importance of dressing up sometimes, how they need to know how to look



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

the part?

God. The worst thing about the things that make me angry is that I usually have only myself to blame I’ve wanted my kids to be able to sleep in and relax, not rush around like these crazy New Yorkers around us. And I’ve bought them barely anything but sweatpants and sports paraphernalia that they love. It is comfy, after all, and isn’t that the most important thing?

Part of the reason I stopped making them go to Temple was the anxiety over what to wear, pathetic as that sounds. It just didn’t seem

important.

When I yell at my kids, I am usually really angry at myself. What’s wrong with me that I haven’t pushed the kids more, like to be up and out early, running in the park? When we passed a family running together as we walked the dog and our kids slumbered, my eyes got big and my husband looked at me.

“Stop!” he said. He knew what I was thinking: that should be us, up and running together, instead of the kids laying there like lumps until 10 or 11, then playing video games for hours.

“Should.” It is a word I try to avoid but one I come up against constantly, especially around the holidays. Here I am, living out my fantasy life in New York City.

I dreamed of this when I was a kid watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade on television in Arizona. That could be me there in that Big City, waving at the camera with my kids, all bundled up, watching the big blow-up balloons, and the stars of Broadway. Now, though, when we could trek over there, we don’t. We don’t even really watch it on television.

The reality of life and what I often imagine it should be smacks me hard in the face as my kids grow more and more independent and we try to figure how to get along and what we want to do in our time together. If I am the Yelling Shrew, are they really going to want to be anywhere near me as they get older? Luckily, I’ve been given some dispensation by Oscar who, at 12, often understands things I forget.

“You have to yell at me, mom, otherwise I probably wouldn’t do a lot of things,” he said.

He does the laundry, folds it, and puts it away. He gets all his homework done and gets excellent grades, not necessarily because I’ve yelled, but certainly in part because of my expectations.

When I think of the things he and his brother do, versus what they don’t do, I am in better shape.

Certainly, there is no absolute right and wrong about how to handle life, no tribunal in our free society who decides whether suits and ties are better than sweats and T-shirts.

There is only our way, as a family, and that’s the part we need to reconcile.

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Photos by Louise Wateridge
Park Slopers welcomed the illuminated tree on Fifth Avenue on Nov. 28 with singing and puppetry.

HARK SLOPE!

Locals sing up a storm at tree-lighting

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slopers are really singing this event’s praises! Residents celebrated the coming holiday season on Fifth Avenue with a tree-lighting ceremony last Saturday, and local kids had a blast joining in with all the carols, parents said.

“They love it,” said Park Slope mom Omayra Martinez of her 4-year-old twin daughters. “They like singing along.”

Musical acts included Rolie Polie Guacamolie, who performed songs for kids, 15-year-old “pop opera” singer Sarah Stevens, and carolers from booze-loving belters Opera on Tap.

Patrons at the lighting ceremony, which was produced by the Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District to promote shopping along the commercial strip that is home to more than 500 small businesses, also enjoyed free treats and hot chocolate from local eateries Du Jour Bakery, the Chocolate Room, and Le Pain Quotidien — just a taste of what the strip has to offer, according to organizer.

“If you believe in support-



Photo by Louise Wateridge
The Martinez family showed up in force at the Christmas tree lighting.

ing small businesses, you should come out to see all Park Slope’s Fifth Avenue has to offer for the holidays,” said executive director Mark Caserta.

Kids were also treated to a puppet show and created their own marionettes at a puppet-making workshop courtesy of the Prospect Park Y.

The Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District will continue offering holiday events every Saturday until Christmas, and Santa will make appearances at Le Pain Quotidien at Carroll Street on Dec. 5, Sidecar between 15th and 16th streets on Dec. 12, and Lulu’s for Baby between Dean and Bergen streets on Dec. 19.

Shelter bomb

Kensington to get homeless center across from school

By Yvonne Juris
for The Brooklyn Paper

The city blindsided Kensington residents with the announcement that it will open a homeless shelter across the road from an elementary school on McDonald Avenue in a few weeks, say locals who fear the refuge’s residents will put their kids in danger.

Neighbors say they showed up at a meeting on Monday night that they believed would be about the possibility of opening a shelter in the area, only to learn that it was already happening — and just days away.

“I came to this meeting with an open mind, thinking that this shelter was a possibility,” said Bridget Elder. “But I was really quite shocked to find out that it was really a done deal.”

Department of Home-

less Services officials told the unsuspecting locals that it will open the 65-unit in a former college dormitory shelter across from PS 230 between Albemarle Road and Church Avenue on Dec. 7.

Reps claimed the shelter would pose no risk to neighbors and students — they will institute a curfew, install security cameras, place metal detector and x-ray machines at the entrance, and employ a rotating team of 18 different security guards to provide on-site security around the clock.

Additionally, the facility will only be open to families with children, and at least 30 percent of the incoming residents hold full-time jobs, they said. Being homeless isn’t synonymous with being dangerous, a spokeswoman told locals.

“I know that it is a very



Photo by Arthur De Gatta
The city is opening a new homeless shelter at 385 McDonald Ave. — and soon!

tense situation, but we shouldn’t stereotype,” said Camille Rivera. “No one comes into the shelter because they want to. They come because they have to.”

But neighbors say they don’t trust the department to dedicate the time and money to make sure the security is enforced — especially after it was so deceptive about announcing the shelter in the

first place. “I care for children, but I need a guarantee,” said PS 230 assistant principal Kathleen Drain. “And when it comes from back door and it’s shady, how can I trust anything?”

Local pols claim they only found out about the shelter a few weeks ago and agree the city should have given more notice, but are urging

Is it game over?

Sunset Park arcade may shut

By Dylan Kreitman
for The Brooklyn Paper

This arcade may be on its last life.

Sunset Park’s Next Level — known to many as a mecca for brawler titles such as “Street Fighter” — may close its doors after the business’s lease expires in February, an owner said.

“We’re trying to see if we can renew it or find a new location,” said owner Henry Cen. “That’s business, though.”

Next Level lets players rent time and play through a library of games on old-school arcade cabinets and the latest video game consoles. Players also gather to go head-to-head in trading card games, but the shop’s weekly Wednesday night “Battle Circuit” tournament is its true

claim to fame — gamers travel from all over the city to test their reflexes against one another at games such as “Street Fighter” and “Guilty Gear,” patrons said.

“I’m here every Wednesday — I don’t think I’ve missed one,” said John Genciana, of Queens. “I’ve been coming here since it opened.”

The arcade rose from the ashes of Manhattan’s famous Chinatown Fair, where patrons lined up to duke it out on old-school arcade machines and challenge live chickens to Tic-tac-toe for decades before a bitter rent dispute forced the game hall’s 2011 shuttering. The last quarter had barely dropped in Manhattan when Cen, a former manager at Chinatown Fair, opened Next Level in Sun-



Photo by Louise Wateridge
Sunset Park arcade and nerd haven Next Level may close in February if owners can’t negotiate a lease renewal or find a new space.

set Park’s own Chinatown in 2011, he said.

In its four years, Next Level has established itself

as one of the top New York arcades for fight game competition, Cen said. “This is the most well-

known location on the East Coast,” Cen said. “The competition is high, and there is opportunity to break onto the pro-circuit.”

Professional gamer Christopher Gonzalez — who goes by the handle NYChrisG and recently nabbed a sponsorship from eSports group Tempo Storm — trained at the arcade until he moved to California last year.

If Cen can’t negotiate a lease renewal, he’ll try to find a new home for Next Level, he said. The current site is zoned for residential and retail uses.

If Next Level does move, at least one player said he’d quest long and hard to get to the new location. “I’d travel hours and hours,” said Andrew Greenberg. “I’m a dedicated customer.”

Next Level Arcade [4013 Eighth Ave. between 40th and 41st streets in Sunset Park, www.nycnextlevel.com, (347) 618-8813]. Open Monday–Saturday. Hours vary.



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All employment advertised herein is subject to section 296 of the human rights law, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, disability, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, or arrest conviction record, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Title 29, U.S. Code, Chap 630, excludes the Federal Gov't from the age discrimination provisions. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for employment which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that employment offerings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

SALES HELP WANTED

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HELP WANTED

ELECTRICIAN NEEDED
3 plus years exp.
Must have own tools, able to work alone and must drive.
718-522-3893

JOB INFORMATION

ATTEND COLLEGE? Get AVIATION approved Aviation Maintenance training. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM for free information 866-296-7093

JOB INFORMATION

Letitia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads
Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble.
Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."
Office of the Public Advocate

To Advertise in the Brooklyn Paper Call 718-260-2588

PRODUCTION ARTIST PART-TIME

CNG (Community News Group) is New York City's largest network of local weekly newspapers, distributing hundreds of thousands of papers in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan. In addition, CNG publishes specialty magazines and local websites. Currently, we have an opening for a Production Artist to assist in the creation of advertisements and the layouts of our newspapers.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform accurate and visually pleasing advertisements and layouts for all publications.
- Work with sales reps and clients to create visually pleasing advertisements for all sections.
- Deliver advertisements to sales reps within the allotted time.
- Meet weekly deadlines for submission to the printer.
- Troubleshoot and/or track down missing ads by communicating with sales reps and management.

QUALIFICATIONS

- College or Technical school degree preferred
- Ad design and page layout related experience or training.
- Ability to grasp and implement layout and IT concepts quickly and efficiently.
- Ability to meet deadlines, work in a fast paced environment, while being detail oriented.
- Strong knowledge of Adobe Indesign, Photoshop, Acrobat and Illustrator
- Proficient using a MAC

MUST BE AVAILABLE WEDNESDAYS

Please send your resume and samples of work to:

Leah Mitch
Email: lmitch@cnglocal.com



CNG is an EOE





I ♥ NY[®]

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CAN BE ENJOYED
IN MANY AREAS THAT
ARE NOT BROOKLYN.
SUCH AS UP IN
THE AIR, WHEN FLYING
OVER BROOKLYN.**

**DELTA IS PROUD TO SERVE BROOKLYN BREWERY
ON BOARD FLIGHTS FROM JFK TO LAX AND SFO.**

